

time to hold a hearing on this bill, they would have discovered that the bill merely requires the President to “prepare and consider” the inflationary impact—not publish it. This is yet another misleading political stunt from the new Republican majority.

For two years, House Republicans blamed President Biden and Congressional Democrats for inflation and promised they would fix it. Yet, they passed on the opportunity to work with Democrats to fight inflation by passing the Inflation Reduction Act to rebuild American manufacturing and lower the costs of prescription drugs, health care, energy, and other goods and services.

Since 2020, inflation has risen worldwide, exacerbated by supply chain delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the outbreak of the pandemic, Democrats worked swiftly to pass relief packages, helping American families and businesses survive while preventing economic collapse. Recent figures have shown that these programs worked: inflation is lower in the U.S. than in the U.K., Canada, and 20 European Union member states. Today, while Republicans offer this thoughtless bill, 432,000 Minnesotans and millions of other Americans who have benefited from the emergency SNAP funding are seeing their extra benefits run out. This bill does nothing to reduce everyday costs for these and other Americans.

Madam Chair, H.R. 347 is yet more proof that Republicans would rather blame President Biden and Democrats for inflation than take steps to address it.

It should be rejected.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JOSEFINA ORTEGA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Josefina Ortega.

Josefina was born February 10, 1923, in Contla, Jalisco, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1961, starting a new life in the City of Pomona. For 18 years she worked as a seamstress at Betty Oden Dresses in Walnut, California—famous for their vintage ruffle lace tulle and church dresses. In 2015, she became a proud naturalized citizen of the United States.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Josefina on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like her. I am grateful for her 62 years of residency in my district. I was honored to join her and hear her sing at her 100th Birthday celebration. I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. MARTIN HARMON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of

Mr. Martin Harmon, president and founder of the Western Care Construction Company. Mr. Harmon leaves behind an indelible legacy of over 50 years of service in the senior care and construction industries.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Harmon demonstrated his persevering and industrious spirit from a young age, working from the age of nine to support his family during the difficult times of World War II. As an adolescent, Mr. Harmon went on to open his own market and meat-packing company, beginning what would become a long career of entrepreneurial ventures.

At the age of 27, inspired by his mother's selfless service in caring for the elderly, Mr. Harmon purchased his first nursing home in Auburn, California, discovering his passion for supporting his community through construction projects. Driven by his spirit of service, Mr. Harmon became a licensed general contractor, enabling him to create new senior living facilities and other community structures from the ground up.

Mr. Harmon's innovation and diligence left a lasting impact on the senior care and construction industries. After obtaining his Nursing Home Administrator's license, he founded Western Care Construction Company, dedicated to developing senior living and care residencies that prioritize dignity and quality of life. Under Mr. Harmon's patient leadership, Western Care has established itself as a company that does not merely create facilities, but also communities that enrich residents' lives and provide spaces to promote connections between residents.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Harmon founded multiple companies, including Horizon West Healthcare and Platinum Living Services, which spearheaded community development projects around California. His involvement in multiple industries—from construction to real estate development to senior care—allowed him to develop long-term, collaborative relationships with a wide array of individuals, extending the reach of his community influence. Mr. Harmon's critical leadership, strong work ethic, and creativity permanently changed the landscape of the senior care industry, ensuring future generations of aging Americans will be treated with dignity and compassion.

Mr. Harmon will be remembered not only for his decades of service to California seniors, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many and his steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship have left a lasting legacy on communities across California.

Mr. Harmon's enduring spirit will live on in the communities he impacted. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Harmon's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of California, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING ERC; COUNSELORS AND CONSULTANTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of ERC:

Counselors and Consultants. Founded in 1992, this thriving Employee Assistance Program based in Green Bay partners with organizations throughout Wisconsin and the Nation with the goal of enhancing the mental health of employees, improving business performance, and strengthening communities. While ERC remains focused on the Midwest, the company has a national footprint through their network of counselors.

Steve and Allyson Baue purchased ERC in 2014. Their strong leadership and passion for helping others led ERC to experience record growth in 2022 as companies sought better benefits for their employees. Today, ERC has more than 100,000 employees covered by their Employee Assistance Program, and they have more than 400 partnerships with customers throughout Wisconsin and the United States. ERC has an outstanding reputation for helping lift the mental health burdens that hold employees back. I commend Steve and Allyson for the hard work and dedication they have displayed towards helping companies improve employee mental health.

ERC is positively changing the workplace by embodying Northeast Wisconsin values in all that they do. It is exciting to hear of ERC's plans to continue promoting quality mental health benefits while expanding their footprint in underserved areas. They are a true benefit to the Green Bay area and all of Northeast Wisconsin. I am grateful to Steve and Allyson, ERC's counselors, and the entire ERC team for their continued support and dedication to helping individuals address mental health challenges with easy access to quality counseling services.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate ERC: Counselors and Consultants on its 30th year in advancing the mental health of employees. I wish this company many more years of continued growth and success.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF AMBASSADOR JAMES A. JOSEPH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Ambassador James A. Joseph, who passed away on February 17, 2023, at the age of 87. Although originally from Louisiana, Ambassador Joseph had ties to Tuscaloosa, where he helped lead local civil rights efforts in the 1960s.

Ambassador Joseph served with distinction in under several Presidents, including as Under Secretary of Interior under President Carter and as our Ambassador to South Africa for three years during the Clinton Administration. The only U.S. Ambassador to present his credentials to President Nelson Mandela, he was awarded the Order of Good Hope by the Republic of South Africa in 1999, the highest honor bestowed on a citizen of another country.

Under President Clinton, Ambassador Joseph also served as the founding chair of the Commission on National and Community Service that established AmeriCorps. Reflecting the high regard in which he was held, Ambassador Joseph served under President Ronald Reagan on the Advisory Committee for the